

language of this country. Thank you very much.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Preister.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I didn't have a chance to address at any length, and maybe I don't need to, the second part of the amendment. Not only Senator Bromm, but others who support the requirement that somebody be on the premises who can make referrals to community agencies found a problem with requiring an employee whose primary job it was to do that. You could get the impression that maybe a company would have to hire somebody and they would specialize in this. So the term primary is stricken and all that is left is a requirement that somebody at the site be able to refer these people to agencies if there is help that they need, and there does not then require the hiring of a special individual. And to speak a little bit more on what Senator Vrtiska was referring to, although I wouldn't put it in the bill, I think some companies already do encourage people and based on things I've been told, some have facilitated non-English-speaking people finding classes. Some might even participate in providing classes for English as a second language. If we can get this bill into effect, then the companies will stop the misrepresenting, they will recruit on the basis of trying to have a stable work force and having people here for a period of time just so that they don't have to pay to send them back home. So if the employment stabilizes, if the person can stay here long enough to get his or her feet on the ground, then they will see quickly that it's to their advantage to begin to learn the language. And, Senator Vrtiska, when I was at Creighton, I have to go back to all these ancient days, my unrelated minor was Spanish. I took every Spanish course that they offered at Creighton. My lowest grade in Spanish was I think a B plus because I really enjoyed it. I love words, even words in another language, but they never had any labs where we spoke the language, never spoke it and I could read it aloud and I could understand to some extent when I heard it read, but I had to see the words in order to grasp them. My grasp of Spanish was so good when it came to writing and translating that the teacher who was from Puerto Rico was doing translating for the state and she wanted me to do some of that work with her and I would have been paid. So it is possible to study a language but without the opportunity to speak it and hear it spoken you will not have the comprehension. I said all that to say this. As people work